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Oct 1st, 9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

# GALILEO: Staying Afloat in the Digital Age

Pamela Y. McCreless

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, [pymccreless@gmail.com](mailto:pymccreless@gmail.com)

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### Recommended Citation

McCreless, Pamela Y., "GALILEO: Staying Afloat in the Digital Age" (2016). *Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy*. 46.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gaintlit/2016/2016/46>

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# [GALILEO: Staying Afloat in the Digital Age](#)

Pamela Y. McCreless, "GALILEO: Staying Afloat in the Digital Age" (October 1, 2016). *Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy*. Paper 46.  
<http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gaintlit/2016/2016/46>

**Pamela Y. McCreless**, *Chattahoochee Valley Libraries* [pmccreless@CVLGA.org](mailto:pmccreless@CVLGA.org)

**Target Audience:** K-12

## **Abstract:**

According to the Pew Research Center, 94% of teachers surveyed indicated that their students are “very likely” to use Google or other search engines ahead of all other sources when doing research for assignments. Educators agree that students are drowning in information. Teachers and librarians alike have the mission to teach information literacy skills to enable students to stay afloat in the sea of information. These same students were reported to lack online search skills. Students should understand that not all search engines are alike nor can all search engine results be trusted 100% of the time. GALILEO - Georgia Library Learning Online provides access to scholarly databases, journals, articles, ebooks, images, charts, and videos. Because GALILEO is an authoritative, credible source for research, students can focus on whether search results are relevant and objective for their needs. To effectively use GALILEO, it is important for students to understand how to best perform keyword searches. The use of Boolean operators will make keyword-based text searches more precise. The challenge for educators is to make GALILEO the natural “go-to” website for students. Placing a link to GALILEO on the school’s website and/or library-media center webpage is a great way to make the site accessible. Promoting the site through handouts and promotional materials will remind students of GALILEO and the benefits of using it for research. Giving students extra credit points on assignments for using GALILEO will certainly drive students to try it. Remember: When you absolutely, positively need credible, authoritative information, “GALILEO it!”

## **Presentation Description:**

The tri-board contains information on GALILEO, Georgia’s Virtual Library for the 21st Century. Observers are given web links to Kahoot!, a tool for using technology to administer quizzes, discussions, and surveys. Observers will participate in an online quiz that features questions on using GALILEO in addition to tips on performing online searches.

## **Keywords:**

GALILEO, search engines, authoritative sources, credible sources, keyword searches, Boolean operators, information literacy skills

## **GALILEO Search Tips:**

**Tip One:** Include only strong words in your search terms, rather than searching a long phrase. Enter “AND” between your stronger words.

**Tip Two:** When you find an article relevant to your search, look at the subject search terms in the article’s record for alternate words you can use in your search. You can also click on one of these terms and be taken to a list of results based on the specific subject.

**Tip Three:** The *GALILEO Discover* search and many individual databases include limiters to narrow and refine your search results set.

**Tip Four:** In most databases, a keyword search includes the title, author, subject and abstract, but not the full text of the article. If no results or only a few results are returned, use the “all text” field and the advanced search to include the full text of articles in your search.

<http://bit.ly/2bWyNca>



## **Teachers, Media Specialists, and Librarians:**

Place a link to *Discover GALILEO* on your school’s or library’s website.

*Discover GALILEO* provides a single search of GALILEO’s hundred plus databases, digital collection, and print materials.

Place links to specific GALILEO databases, such as *Britannica School* on your website by using the Express Links feature: <http://bit.ly/2bNoKG5>





Use Remind.com to share GALILEO password updates with your students. Also, use Remind.com to invite your students to visit “the database of the month” or other activities you wish to promote.

Use Kahoot (<https://getkahoot.com/>) to create games which focus on search strategies. A Kahoot is a fun learning game made from a series of multiple choice questions. Videos, images and diagrams can be added to your questions to amplify engagement. Kahoots are best played in a group setting, like a classroom. They work on any device with an Internet connection. Players answer on their own devices, while games are displayed on a shared screen to unite the lesson. Social learning promotes discussion and pedagogical impact. Players can be in the same room or on a different continent. Encourage your students to create and share their own kahoots to deepen understanding, mastery and purpose.



### Students:

Topics can be found in textbooks. Choose an unfamiliar topic to learn something new and exciting. When deciding upon a topic or beginning your research, use *Britannica School* or *SIRS Discoverer* instead of Wikipedia.

*SIRS Discoverer* provides editable PDF tutorials for students to practice information literacy and research skills (located under *Educators' Resources* on the main page).

**STUDENTS K-5 Tutorial:** <http://bit.ly/2cbbJIL>

**STUDENTS 6-8 Tutorial:** <http://bit.ly/2cws3Ht>



### Using Boolean Operators:

Boolean searching is based upon symbolic logic developed by George Boole, a 19<sup>th</sup> century English mathematician. Most databases support Boolean searching.

*The Boolean Machine* is a tool to assist students in visualizing the effects of Boolean operators on keyword searches: <http://bit.ly/2bIOyYf>



The *Searching Effectively AND, OR, NOT* tutorial further demonstrates the benefit of using Boolean operators when searching databases: <http://bit.ly/1LFU6xr> (requires *Flash*)



## Test your Research Skills with Kahoot:

<http://bit.ly/2cM0zJ3>

